

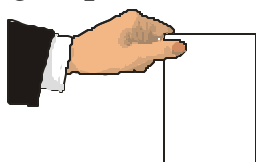
## Spring 2000

### Table of Contents

Act 51 Transit Committee (con't)	2
CTF Administrative Rules	2
UPTRAN is on the Move!	2
1999 Ridership Totals	3
Medium Duty Diesel Bus Bid	3
Transit Vehicle & Equipment Team	3
Dates to Remember	3
PTD Welcomes New Employee	3
Welfare Reform Efforts Continue	4
Commuter Choice Outreach Effort	4
Around the State	
CATS Has New Administrator	5
JTA Honors Employee	5
Interurban Transit Partnership	5
ICTC Employee "Bucks"	6
Transit Vehicle & Equipment Seminar	6
Michigan Small Bus Rodeo	6
Adopt-A-Highway	7
Univ. of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Training	7
ADA Update	7
Project Action	8

### Routing Slip

\_\_\_\_\_ Managers  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Supervisors  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Mechanics  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Drivers



Please share the *Passenger Trans-Actions* with other members of your staff. Don't let it get buried on your desk.

## Act 51 Transit Committee Report Recommendations

The Act 51 Transit Committee has spoken! At their April 27 meeting, the committee approved a series of recommendations for submittal to the State Transportation Commission (STC). The same day, the STC approved the report and recommendations. The recommendations are summarized below.

### Formula Operating Assistance Changes

- Base funding using population and population density.
- Performance funding using efficiency and effectiveness factors.
- 5 year funding transition from 75 percent Base/25 percent Performance to 50 percent Base/50 percent Performance.
- Effectiveness factors - Locally Derived Income (LDI) and how well transit dependent and total population are being served.
- Efficiency factors - output divided by input. Transit agencies and the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) will meet to reach consensus on the factors to be used.
- Transition funds for 3 years to insure a orderly transition to the new formula.

### UPTRAN Administration

- Reduce UPTRAN administrative costs to "best in class."

### Regionalization

- Provide financial incentives to establish coordinated regional services.
- The Detroit Department of Transportation (DDOT) and the Suburban Mobility Authority for Regional Transportation (SMART) shall develop a coordinated regional transit system.
- Competitive bidding process for new regional services to include private and inter-city carriers.

(Continued on page 2)

# Act 51 Transit Committee Recommendations (continued)

## Federal Funding

- MDOT and transit industry continue to work cooperatively to increase federal transit funding to Michigan.
- Local transit agencies provide a portion of the matching funds required for federal grants.

## Consolidation/Coordination of State Funding for Transit

- Consolidate existing transportation funds (at least in an accounting process) from all state departments and distribute these funds through a voucher system.

## Private Sector Role in Public Transit

- Transit agencies shall provide for competitive bidding to allow private sector competition.
- Eliminate the state AMTRAK subsidy.

## Unmet Needs

- Transit agencies shall develop a 5 year plan with goals and objectives and to identify local and regional unmet needs.

## State Transportation Commission (STC)

- STC shall establish a standing committee of the STC to evaluate the new formula operating assistance programs.

The recommendations have now been forwarded to the Governor's office and to the Transportation Funding Study Committee which has developed recommendations affecting the road and bridge portions of Act 51. This report will also incorporate the Transit Committee's recommendations. MDOT and the transit associations are meeting to discuss issues resulting from the Act 51 Transit Committee's recommendations.

A copy of the report has been sent to all public transit agencies. Anyone wishing to receive a copy should contact Darlene Mans at 517/373-0471 (e-mail [mansd@mdot.state.mi.us](mailto:mansd@mdot.state.mi.us)). If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Kip Grimes at 517/373-0470 (e-mail [grimesk@mdot.state.mi.us](mailto:grimesk@mdot.state.mi.us)).

"MDOT - Providing the highest quality transportation services for economic benefit and improved quality of life."

## CTF Administrative Rules

New administrative rules were filed with the Secretary of State, Office of the Great Seal, on April 25, 2000. The rules became effective on May 11, 2000, and are the official administrative rules for the administration of the Comprehensive Transportation Fund. These administrative rules may be obtained from the Office of Regulatory Reform Web Site: [www.state.mi.us/orr](http://www.state.mi.us/orr).

The administrative rules include the following subjects: definitions, project approval process, eligibility, resolution of intent, eligible and ineligible expenses, cost allocation plan, accessibility plan content, local advisory council, accessibility plan process, audits, progress reports, withholding, contracts, third party contracts, and declaratory rulings. If you have any questions on the new administrative rules, contact Bill Beachler at 517/335-2534 or e-mail [beachlerb@mdot.state.mi.us](mailto:beachlerb@mdot.state.mi.us).

## UPTRAN is on the Move!!

The fourth floor of the Murray D. VanWagoner Transportation Building will be remodeled starting June 1 to install a fire suppression system and remove asbestos. This means UPTRAN will be moving out of the building for about seven months to a new home at 808 Southland in Lansing. UPTRAN's Deputy Director Phil Kazmierski will remain in the VanWagoner Building in a temporary office on the first floor. Staff phones will be forwarded to the new location, so it will not be necessary to learn new numbers to contact us. It is our goal to do whatever is necessary to minimize disruption, as well as continue to provide quality service to our customers.

The Passenger Trans-Actions is a quarterly news bulletin produced by the Michigan Department of Transportation, Passenger Transportation Division for the public transit providers in Michigan. Suggestions or comments may be sent to Jill Adams, MDOT/Passenger Transportation Division, P.O. Box 30050, Lansing, Michigan 48909, or call (517) 373-2051 (e-mail: [adamsji@mdot.state.mi.us](mailto:adamsji@mdot.state.mi.us)). Alternative formats such as large print, braille, or audio-tape are available upon request by calling Rose Ann Ward (517) 335-2598. Total quarterly cost to print 500 copies: \$72.75 (\$0.15 per copy).

## 1999 Ridership Totals

The 10e(21) report on transportation for Senior and Persons with Disabilities was sent to the Legislature, as required by Act 51, on April 10, 2000. Total statewide ridership for FY 1999 was 84,925,147, a 2 percent decrease from FY 1998. Total statewide senior and disabled ridership was 10,763,574. A total of 3,556 vehicles (81 percent lift or ramp equipped) provide service for the citizens of Michigan.

## Medium Duty Diesel Bus Bid

The Department of Management and Budget (DMB) received seven bids for the medium duty diesel buses. The bidders were Champion Bus, Inc., Glaval Bus, Hoekstra Truck Equipment Company, Inc. (ElDorado National), Midwest Transit Equipment, Inc. (Goshen Coach), and World Trans (formerly Mid Bus).

Hoekstra Truck Equipment Company, Inc., of Grand Rapids, Michigan is the low bidder for the project and has been awarded the contract. Average bus price under the contract is \$81,000. If you have any questions regarding the medium duty diesel bus bid, please contact Jerome Jonson at 517/335-2568 or e-mail [jonsonj@mdot.state.mi.us](mailto:jonsonj@mdot.state.mi.us).

## Transit Vehicle & Equipment Advisory Team

The Transit Vehicle & Equipment Advisory Team met on March 29, 2000, at Bay Metro Transportation Authority. The team reviewed the specification for a full size accessible van. This vehicle will serve as a replacement for the minivan conversion and narrow body cutaway contracts. We are expecting to have a contract available on the extended purchasing program this summer.

In addition, the team reviewed a proposed demonstration project to evaluate automatic tire chains on buses.

The next meeting is tentatively being planned for June 13<sup>th</sup>, 10 a.m. at the Holiday Inn in Grayling, just prior to the Transit Vehicle and Equipment Seminar. If you have any questions, please contact Al Johnson at 517/335-2549 or e-mail [johnsonal@mdot.state.mi.us](mailto:johnsonal@mdot.state.mi.us).

## DATES TO REMEMBER



### CTAA Expo 2000

June 3-9, 2000  
Ft. Lauderdale, FL

### PTD Transit Vehicle & Equipment Seminar

June 14-16, 2000  
Ralph A. MacMullan Center, Higgins Lake, MI

### PTD Michigan Small Bus Rodeo

July 18, 2000 (NOTE DATE CHANGES)  
Holiday Inn South, Lansing  
Lugnugs Outing - July 17

### TRB Conference on Transportation and Environmental for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

July 23-26, 2000  
Pittsburgh, PA

### MPTA Annual Meeting

August 16-18, 2000  
Harbor Springs, MI

### APTA Annual Meeting

September 24-28, 2000  
San Francisco, CA

### PTD Annual Meeting

October 16-18, 2000  
Valley Plaza Resort, Midland

## PTD Welcomes New Employee

PTD's Technical Assistance and Regulatory Section (TARS) welcomes Kim Miller who will provide administrative support for TARS. Kim worked in MDOT's Specialized Technology Section for 11 years and has previously worked in several other state departments and private industry.

Kim can be contacted at 517/373-7665 or e-mail [millerk5@mdot.state.mi.us](mailto:millerk5@mdot.state.mi.us). Welcome, Kim!



## Welfare Reform Efforts Continue

Lack of transportation to and from employment, training, and child care sites continues to be identified as a barrier by welfare recipients. Collaboration at both the local and state level have addressed these issues to assist in providing transportation, family support, mentoring, employment, and child care.

Welfare programs sponsored in the state of Michigan include Project Zero, which started with six sites in July 1996 and will become a statewide program on October 1, 2000. The goal of the program is to reduce to zero the number of public assistance households without earned income within the pilot areas across the state. To date, 44 Project Zero sites have reached zero.

MDOT also makes work first initiative funds available through a grant application process administered by the Michigan Works! Agencies. Local partners develop plans and describe measures to address the needs in their area. The plans are reviewed jointly by MDOT, the Family Independence Agency (FIA), and the Michigan Department of Career Development (MDCD) for approval. The deadline for the call for projects for FY 2000 was March 31, 2000. It is expected that the funds for the approved projects will be awarded to the Michigan Works! Agencies in June.

Efforts continue to initiate the federal commuter choice program through the local rideshare offices and MichiVan. Efforts include a statewide marketing campaign to encourage employers to participate in this program. The Statewide Rideshare Coordinator, as well as representatives from the local rideshare offices and the MichiVan program, have been meeting with employers and other interested parties to provide needed information about this program.

On June 1, 2000, FIA rolls out a "Summer Program" that will provide job readiness skills and family growth and development activities to program participants. This program will be implemented through an expanded state partnership that includes the Departments of Education and Community Health, as well as MDOT and MDCD and will address the challenges that families face in making a successful transition to employment. The counties included in this program include: Berrien, Calhoun, Genesee, Ingham, Jackson, Kalamazoo, Kent, Macomb, Muskegon, Oakland, Saginaw, Washtenaw, and eight FIA districts in Wayne.

This month, MDOT submitted a federal Job Access and Reverse Commute grant application for 10 rural projects through the Federal Transit Administration (FTA). These projects are a continuation from the FY2000 grant award. The projects include an expansion in service area and/or delivery times. The counties participating in this application include: Alger, Allegan, Barry, Benzie/Leelanau, Berrien/Cass/VanBuren, Charlevoix/Emmet, Eaton, Ionia, Lake/Mason/Oceana, and Midland. Over \$800,000 in federal monies were requested for these areas.

## Commuter Choice Outreach Effort

On April 25, nearly 300 employers attended the Detroit Welfare to Work Summit to learn about the Commuter Choice Program and how it can assist them in the welfare-to-work effort. The Commuter Choice Program provides employers with a mechanism to financially assist with transportation efforts and save tax dollars at the same time.

You can help raise awareness! Do you know businesses who are interested in learning how they can save money by purchasing transit passes for their employees? Do you know of conferences or seminars where transportation solutions are sought by service providers and employers? If so, contact Angie Payne of the Statewide Coordination Unit at (517) 335-2553 or by e-mail at [paynea@mdot.state.mi.us](mailto:paynea@mdot.state.mi.us).

### **Michigan Department of Transportation**

James R. DeSana, Director

### **Urban and Public Transportation**

Philip F. Kazmierski, Deputy Director

Kip Grimes, Administrator, Passenger

Transportation Division

### **Transportation Commission**

Barton W. LaBelle, Chairman

Jack L. Gingrass, Vice Chairman

Lowell B. Jackson

John W. Garside

Betty Jean Awrey

Ted B. Wahby

## **Around the State**

### **CATS Has New Administrator**

The Chelsea Area Transportation System (CATS), whose mission is to provide convenient transportation for seniors and differently abled individuals, welcomes Michaelene Pawlak as its new administrator. Michaelene was previously the mobility manager for the Mercy Health System.



The CATS Board of Directors recognized the need for a more hands-on approach to managing an increasingly complex system and the opportunity to coordinate services with Ann Arbor Transportation Authority and other transportation systems and programs in the area. Michaelene will work to improve and streamline services for CATS.

### **JTA Honors Employee**

Jackson Transportation Authority (JTA) recently renamed its downtown transfer center the "Ortiz Transfer Center" in honor of Emelio (Emo) Martinez Ortiz. Emo, a mechanic at JTA, died in a fire last July along with his wife and granddaughter.

Emo was well liked by everyone and helped employees, friends, and strangers without any fanfare. He consistently gave to the people of the community without expecting anything in return.

On the day of his funeral, all JTA vehicles pulled to the side of the road for three minutes in honor of Emelio and his family.

### **Goodbye, GRATA! Hello, Interurban Transit Partnership**

Public transportation just got a big boost in the Grand Rapids area. In January this year the Interurban Transit Partnership (ITP) was formed by the cities of Grand Rapids, East Grand Rapids, Grandville, Kentwood, Walker, and Wyoming. Then in April, a millage was approved by a 65 percent margin to support existing and enhanced public transportation.

With the approval of the millage, a six point improvement plan will be implemented in the six cities. The improvement plan includes:

- T** Extended weekday service until 11:30 p.m. on nine of the most popular routes;
- T** Sunday services on seven main routes from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.;
- T** Increased service frequencies on key routes;
- T** A residential connector operating from suburban hub centers will pick up passengers at their homes and connect them to the route service;

- T** Development of specialized employment transportation for employers with needs beyond regular service hours and routes; and
- T** A new crosstown route in the cities of Grandville, Wyoming, Kentwood, and Grand Rapids along 44<sup>th</sup> Street.

The local millage, which will raise an estimated \$6.3 million annually, begins in July 2000 and will last five years.

A transfer agreement between the Grand Rapids Transit Authority (GRATA) and the ITP will take effect in September 2000. At that time, the GRATA Board will cease to exist and will transfer the assets, liabilities, and contracts to the ITP. In October, the ITP Board will have the legal authority for public transportation services in the six city area.





## **Around the State** (continued)



### **ICTC Employee Recognition "Bucks"**

The Isabella County Transportation Commission (ICTC) wanted to make sure that their employees were acknowledged for doing good work, so they instituted a new employee recognition program to insure that employees received immediate positive feedback. The new program is called "ICTC Bucks".

Specially designed ICTC dollar bills were created by ICTC driver Chuck Misky who received the first bucks for his efforts. Whenever an employee does something above and beyond the call of duty, a supervisor can give ICTC bucks as a reward. The employees can save their "money" and when they have saved enough, their ICTC bucks can be turned in to "buy" gift items ranging from an ICTC cap to a dinner and movie special for two or a round of golf at a local golf course.

So far the program seems to work very well. It has encouraged supervisors to remember to say thanks, and it has let employees know that their efforts are appreciated. If you would like to learn more about the ICTC Bucks program, you can contact ICTC General Manager, Janice Bauman at 517/773-2410.

### **Michigan Small Bus Rodeo**

The biggest durn celebration of the century is rollin in on July 18, 2000, at the Holiday Inn South Lansing. "Bully" the bus has his tires a spinin and is waiting fer yer drivers. This is the 25th year he has been doin this ol rodeo and he is ready to roll.

The Michigan Public Transit Association will be donating prize money for the top three individual drivers – \$200 for first place, \$150 for second place and \$100 for third place – and that ain't all. These top three drivers will get a free trip to Salt Lake City, Utah to participate in the National Rodeo next year, and this trip won't mess up yer RTAP allocation cause this is paid fer by MDOT. There's also prize money fer the agencies with the top team winner and the first place individual winner.

There's more! Hoekstra Truck and Equipment Company and ElDorado National will be treating a limited number of participating drivers to dinner at the ballpark and a Lansing Lugnuts baseball game on the evening of July 17. Lansing Lugnuts is a minor league baseball team that just loves to entertain and amaze.

Now's the time to round up yer drivers who think they can tame the wildest bus known as "Bully". Yer drivers can compete in the team and/or individual competition. We're gonna need lotsa bus drivers to make the 2000 Michigan Small Bus Rodeo a great success. The registration information for both the Rodeo and Lansing Lugnuts game will be in the mail by the end of May. If you have any questions on the Rodeo, please contact Linda Williams at 517/241-3221 or e-mail [williamsli@mdot.state.mi.us](mailto:williamsli@mdot.state.mi.us).

## **Transit Vehicle & Equipment Seminar**

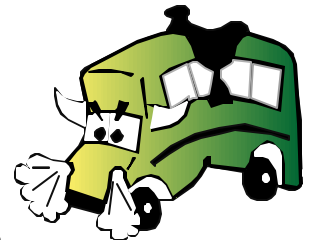
Mark June 14-16, 2000, on your calendar for this year's Transit Vehicle and Equipment Seminar. Check out the highlights from this year's conference.

U Transit Vehicle & Equipment Show runs from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. on June 14

U Maintenance monitoring certificates/plaques presented at kickoff ceremony

U Braun Lift Certification

Registration packets were mailed out in mid-April. If you didn't receive a registration packet, call Kim Miller at 517/373-7665 or e-mail [millerk5@mdot.state.mi.us](mailto:millerk5@mdot.state.mi.us) to request one.



## **Adopt-A-Highway**

As noted in a previous newsletter, the Urban and Public Transportation Bureau (UPTRAN) has adopted a section of highway in the Lansing area...and we're having so much fun keeping it clean, we want to encourage you to do the same!

MDOT coordinates the Adopt-A-Highway program for all state highways, and many municipalities coordinate similar programs for local roads (and rivers, too). We all know the environmental benefits of riding public transit...so adopting a roadway is a perfect match.

Your organization can build a stronger team while beautifying the environment and you can show community support while getting some free publicity (i.e., sign erected to name your agency, "This section of highway adopted by GoBusGo Transit").

Did you know that the Adopt-A-Highway program saves Michigan taxpayers \$2 million annually in litter pick-up costs? Did you know that trash stays on the roadside for a LONG time if nobody picks it up: cigarette butts last one to five years, plastic bags 10 to 20 years, tin cans 50 years, aluminum cans 500 years, glass bottles 1000 years, and plastic bottles and styrofoam will last indefinitely!

If your group is interested in adopting your own stretch of state highway, you can contact Scott Wheeler, MDOT's Adopt-A-Highway Coordinator, at (517) 332-3388.

## **New Certificate Program in Training at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee**

A 64-hour Certificate Program in Training is being offered by the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. The program consists of four modules that can be taken in any order. Classes are designed for new trainers and staff developers who would like to enhance their skills. For more information, contact Paul Haussman at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee at (414) 227-3116.

## **ADA UPDATE**

### **Access Board Extends Proposed Rulemaking Deadline**

The Federal Access Board extended to May 15, 2000 (from March 15, 2000) the deadline for submitting comment on the accessibility guidelines it has proposed under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). As mentioned in the ADA Update in the Winter 2000 edition of the *Passenger Trans-Actions* newsletter, the Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines (ADAAG), when finalized, would be reorganized to make it consistent with the accessibility standards of the Architectural Barriers Act (ABA).

The proposed rule includes a new section on residential facilities and newly recommended standards for work areas, alarms, teletypewriters (TTYs), signage, elevators, automatic teller machines, and public transit facilities. The proposed rule also recommends a number of changed requirements for rail stations. The proposed rule can be viewed on the worldwide web at [www.access-board.gov](http://www.access-board.gov).

## **Project Action Solicits Technical Assistance Projects**

Easter Seals Project ACTION (Accessible Community Transportation in Our Nation) is soliciting interested parties for its Technical Assistance Development Activity Area (TADs). The purpose of the solicitation is to provide funding (not to exceed \$150,000 per project) to develop or complete the development of usable hands-on training, products and models for use by transit personnel to assist in ADA compliance.

The following Topic Categories are work areas that have been identified as requiring additional development and are linked to the Easter Seals Project ACTION Strategic Plan:

1. Passenger safety as it pertains to desirability of and the usability of public transportation services by persons with disabilities.
2. Attracting, training and retaining paratransit drivers.
3. Bus stop accessibility evaluation and design standards.
4. Intercity motorcoach service marketing and outreach.
5. Transit management and operator training for passengers traveling with service animals.

The response deadline date for the solicitation of interested parties is Monday, July 10, 2000. If you are interested in receiving a copy of the solicitation announcement, contact Rose Ann Ward at (517) 335-2598 or by e-mail [wardr@mdot.state.mi.us](mailto:wardr@mdot.state.mi.us).